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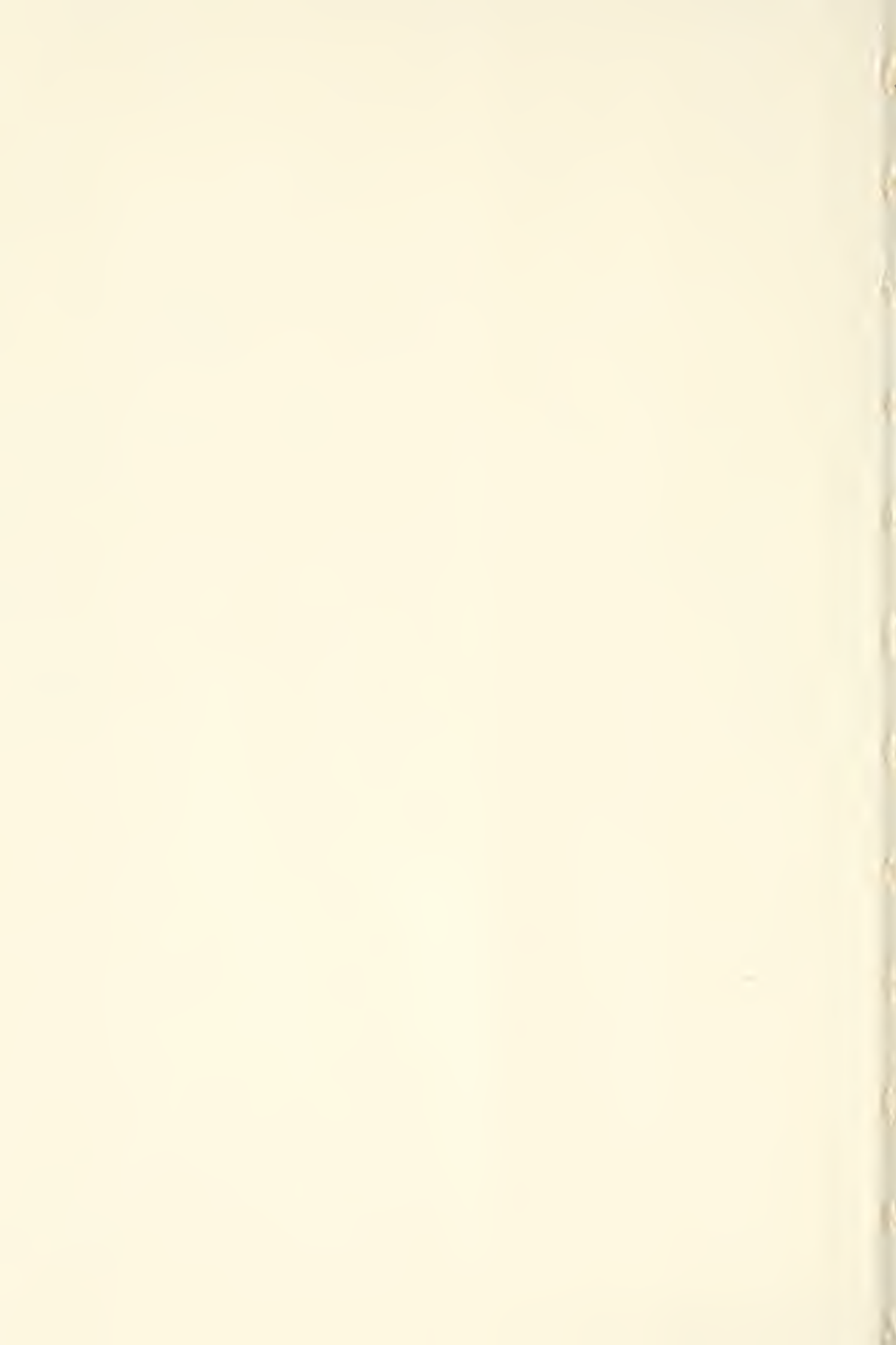
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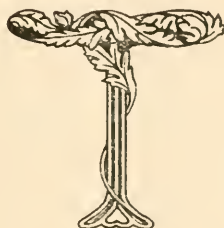


Mrs. N. L. Bireb

HISTORICAL SKETCH
OF THE FAMILY OF
MICHAEL PRESBURY BIRD

Of Roxbury, Massachusetts
A Pioneer of *East Smith-*
field, Pennsylvania, in

1801



To which is added a Brief History
of the

SUMNER FAMILY

Who were also Pioneers
of *East Smithfield, Pa.*

BY

NANCY NILES BIRD

1904

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PRESS OF
FIERSTINE PRINTING HOUSE,
UTICA, N. Y.,
1905.

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*To my Niece, Betsey G. (Sumner) Black-
man, and to my Son, Jesse Sumner Bird,
this Sketch is lovingly dedicated*

By the Author.

INTRODUCTION.

PENFIELD, CLEARFIELD CO., PA.,

OCT. 30, 1904.

MRS. NANCY NILES BIRD,

East Smithfield, Pa.

MY DEAR COUSIN:—It was a pleasure to learn that, at the earnest request of descendants of the Birds and Sumners of Smithfield, you had consented to write somewhat of early times in Smithfield, and of our ancestors.

Your most excellent little book on the Sunday School of that section was carefully read more than once, and with much interest. The evidence of careful inquiry and research given in that book caused me to believe that if your strength would hold out, you would gather up the scattered threads and weave into readable form all that can now be found that comes within the scope of your work.

Let me ask that if possible you place in your sketches a picture of the "Uncle John Bird" house, and also a likeness of yourself.

My personal knowledge of your persistent Christian character, dating back at least to 1844, of your help in holding up the banner of Temperance and all movements tending to uplift society, and of your activity in all religious work within your reach, causes me to ask you to insert this personal tribute as a preface to your history.

Among the most pleasant incidents of my life was my late visit to Smithfield, when with yourself and Cousin Fanny (Andrus) Bailey of Bradford, Pa., we went over the "old places" to refresh our memories, hoping to assist in your work of love.

Yours in Christ,

LUCIAN BIRD, Age, 71½ yrs.

PREFACE.

Betsey G. (Sumner) Blackman and Jesse Sumner Bird were the first to suggest the writing of this sketch, in these words: "Aunt Nancy, you know more of the early history of our parents and ancestors than any one else, and you must write it out and thus preserve it for us." He added, "Mother, it must be done. I shall be greatly disappointed if it is not." Their persistency prevailed and the work was commenced.

Two thoughts have controlled the writer: First, to preserve to the present and future generations the knowledge of the early trials and hardships endured by our ancestors in their efforts to establish homes in an unbroken wilderness, that we might better realize how much we owe to them as we enjoy the fruits of their labors. Second, to note their Christian character and see how God fulfills His promise to "bless them that fear the Lord."

To those who have rendered assistance, thanks are returned; especially to Cousin Lucian Bird, who has given sympathy, encouragement and valuable information; also to his daughter Nellie Bird, who has made many suggestions, done the type-writing and helped to arrange the matter for printing; and to all his family for their love and care, while spending three weeks in their home preparing the work.

As the writer has reviewed the past sixty-five years of her life, has remembered her child love for Fanny Andrus, Harriet Bird, Phebe Gerould and others, which love still continues; recalls her memories of Michael Bird; the giving of her heart's best earthly love to Lark Bird—a trust never betrayed, the love she received from him and his family—all now passed away save one, (brother John); the love of nephews and nieces

as now manifested in many ways for "Aunt Nancy," she has exclaimed: "How good the Lord has been to us all, that we have been permitted to know and love one another."

This work has been to her a "labor of love." To the younger members of the Harry Lewis Bird family she is a stranger. If mistakes of omission or otherwise have been made, it has been through ignorance, and she hopes they will be pardoned. In some cases letters asking for information have not been answered.

It has been her privilege to know and love the Sumner family, except the father and son who first came to Smithfield, only to be laid in the grave.

Hoping that all the Birds and Sumners may find some pleasure in reading this imperfect work, pardon all its imperfections and accept it as love's tribute, her prayer will ever be for a reunion of all on the Other Shore.

The Author,

NANCY NILES BIRD.

EAST SMITHFIELD,
Bradford Co., Pa.,
Dec. 1904.



EXPLANATORY.

Michael Bird's children's names are printed in capitals **ANTIQUE** and are marked with the Roman numerals, I., II., III., IV., V., VI., VII.

The grandchildren are printed in **Antique** lower case with the arabic figures, 1, 2, 3, etc.

The great grandchildren are printed with the Arabic figures in parenthesis, (1,) (2,) (3,) etc., and the paragraphs indented.

EXTRACTS.

"To the honorable, sincere, straightforward folk, assisting in the advance of the world in material and spiritual matters—this is worthy—this is courageous. Hence those who stand for these things are worthy of honor."

"Like all the others of the family, I stand ever for high citizenship, decency, sincerity, honesty. I cannot endure the intriguing of the selfish politician, who works for personal glory under the cloak of patriotism."

"The highest excellence ever attained in this world is a sincere Christian character. 'Tis true this comes from above, but comes to those only who themselves make earnest personal effort to acquire it.

" 'An honest man is the noblest work of God' the proverb tells us. Add to this that such an one, and none other, is fit for citizenship in the United States."

"They tell us of wealth and earthly honor. The closing years of life will show the one to be a grievous burden—the other a reproachful mockery."

HARLAN PAGE BIRD.

History of the *Bird Family* of East Smithfield, Penn.

MICHAEL PRESBURY BIRD was born in Roxbury, Massachusetts, January 18, 1769. He was the son of James Bird and Deborah van Presbury, of Roxbury, who were married November 14, 1765. The Boston Church records give the following: Michael Presbury Bird, son of James Bird, was baptized January 22nd, 1769. There are also records of the baptism of a daughter of James and Deborah Bird, October 18th, 1767, and a son James, April 13th, 1766. This is all the writer now knows of his family.

In boyhood, Michael was apprenticed to a barber, and gave seven year's time and work to learn that trade, which then required special skill and gave the artist high social rank as well as good compensation. Becoming proficient in the art, he was often called to the house of John Adams, who became second President of the U. S. in 1797, and other prominent families, to dress the hair of both men and women, and to braid their cues for public balls and receptions. He often dressed the hair of John Quincy Adams, who was one and a half years his senior and who became President of the U. S. March 4, 1825. May 20, 1790, he was married in Boston, Mass., to Betsey Lewis, born in Billerica, Mass., July 8, 1772. They had two children born in Boston, Fannie, born May 7, 1791, John, born May 11, 1792. Sometime between 1792 and 1797, exact date not known, they remov-

ed to Rutland, Vermont. Cues had gone suddenly out of fashion, half his trade as barber was gone, and his vigorous manhood longed for a wider sphere of action, hence his removal from Boston. In Rutland two children were born; Eliza Abigail, Sept. 12, 1797, and Harry Lewis, Sept. 30, 1800.

While living in Rutland he purchased 160 acres of wild land in Smithfield, Bradford County, Pennsylvania. It was bought under what was known as the Connecticut title and supposed to be good, but proved worthless. William Bingham, an Englishman, owned an immense tract of land in Northern Pennsylvania, including Bradford County. After his death the estate was handled by trustees. William B. Clymer was the Managing agent in Philadelphia. In 1844 agents were sent from Philadelphia to Bradford County to demand payment for the lands to the Bingham estate. The demands were for a time considered unjust and much excitement prevailed among the settlers and some opposition. The Courts decided in favor of the claimants, and the settlers complied with their terms. It was not till 1860 that Lark Bird, grandson of Michael, paid the last dollar of their claim.

I quote from "Early Times," written by Mrs. Geo. A. Perkins in 1869: "In 1783, Matthias Hollenback established a store at Tioga Point, now Athens, for the few white people that had settled up and down the Susquehanna River. He kept dry goods and groceries for the whites, beads, brooches and blankets for the Indians, and rum for both. These goods were brought up the river in boats from Philadelphia for Hollenback's store. There being no post-office in the county till 1800, letters were addressed to Hollenback's store and from there delivered. In 1788 John Shep-

ard bought 600 acres of land at \$2.50 per acre, on a creek since called Shepard's creek—the place known for many years as Mill-Town, now Sayre. On this lot was a saw mill and grist mill, the only one within fifty miles. It was run both night and day. Loads of grain were brought to be ground in this mill fifty miles, in boats, carts and sleighs. In 1798 this mill was burned, and while being rebuilt, a horse-power mill was put in operation and run night and day. To supply the inhabitants with bread, canoes were filled with grain and sent down the river to Hollenback's Mills at Wilkesbarre, eighty miles distant. If sent by team it would require twenty days to make the trip. About 1806 Mr. Shepard added a fulling mill for fulling cloth for men's wear, also for coloring and pressing home-made woolen cloth for both men's and women's wear." This mill continued business many years. The writer remembers that in 1845, she spun the woolen yarn, her mother wove the cloth, it was sent to Shepard's Mills and colored brown and pressed. That cloth was made into a dress and worn by the writer to an evening party, and she thought herself well dressed,

The first permanent settler in the present township of Smithfield was Reuben Mitchell, from Rhode Island, who, with his family, came to Smithfield in 1794, then called Ulster, and they for about four years were the only inhabitants of the township. About 1798 several men commenced improvements, but soon abandoned them. In 1799 James Satterlee, from Otsego County, N. Y., and Samuel Satterlee from Connecticut, settled here. In 1800 Jabez Gerould, from Connecticut, came to Smithfield and prepared a log house for the reception of his family, to which they came in 1801. In 1800 Michael Bird visited his new purchase, cut





GROUP OF FARM BUILDINGS, BIRD FARM.

Photograph Taken 1872.

down some trees, built a log house and made some improvements. Not a stick of timber had ever been cut upon the place nor had he ever cut down a tree the size of his body. He did not know enough of woodcutting at first to stand on a log, chop it on one side, and then turn around to cut it on the other side, but expected to stand on the ground and cut the tree in two. Another trial of the six families living in the settlement was, only one had a grindstone, and all must go to that to grind their axes or brush scythes. Lucien Bird, grandson of Michael, gave the writer this information, and added: "I have seen that stone and it was worn very small." It is now in the possession of Selden Tracy, at Smithfield.

Michael Bird returned to Vermont in the fall of 1800. In March, 1801, with his wife and four children, John, the eldest son, less than ten years of age, and Harry, less than one year old, he came to Smithfield to his new home. In what way they came, with horses or an ox team, is not known—probably the latter. The country was truly a wilderness. Tioga Point, now Athens, was on the Susquehanna River six miles east and four miles north from Smithfield and the only road between these places was "blazed" trees—the underbrush, &c., having been cleared sufficiently for oxen and a sled to pass through. Upon arriving, he found the spring of water near which he built his house had failed; so he cleared away the timber near a living spring, on the southern boundary of the land, a few rods west of the road leading to the commodious farm buildings now owned by his great grandson, George Niles Bird, and known for many years as the "Bird Farm." Here he built another log house. The roof was made from bark peeled from the tree in large sheets for the purpose, laid in tiers and kept in

place by poles laid across the tiers. These roofs were a good protection from the sun, but sometimes in heavy rains proved failures. This house, as occupied for awhile, had only the ground for a floor. There was no chimney, and some stones were laid up at one end of the log building, the fire was built against these—the smoke being expected to go out through a hole in the roof. One of the trials of the city-bred mother was, that the smoke would not always go out, causing the room to be very smoky; hence it was a great relief to get a chimney after awhile. Another trial was, the mother had brought from Boston a set of rare china dishes. Having no boards or nails to make a cupboard, or closet, a plank was hewn with an axe and hung against the wall with strings of moose wood, upon which the china treasures were placed. The strings broke, every dish fell to the floor and was broken, the poor mother's tears mingling with the fragments. Ash logs were split with an axe into planks, or puncheons, as they were called, to make a floor, and that was considered quite an advance. Their windows were very small as glass was costly. No patent locks, or door handles, or window fastenings were known then. The door latch was a wooden one, whittled out of soft pine wood with a jackknife, resting in a wooden catch and operated with a leather string. Chairs and tables were a luxury, benches and seats manufactured with an axe and saw, sufficed. Huge trees of pine, hemlock, beech, birch, maple and other varieties covered the land. Wild animals were abundant. The bear roamed about freely, the catamount and the wolf made the night hideous with their cries. The deer, more friendly, furnished meat for the family, but to get salt to use on it, or lard to cook it with was a problem. As the boy Harry said in after years, "We would most as

soon eat chips as to eat the deer meat dry. It was better when we got to raising hogs." Smaller game of many varieties was plenty. Fish was found in the stream that ran through the place, especially the speckled trout, now unfortunately extinct.

Upon the hills were chestnut trees with their fruit. Sweet elder berries in their season furnished clusters of red berries which the good housewife learned to make into sauce and pies. Berries of various kinds, the whortle berries, red and black raspberries and blackberries were indigenous to the soil—and as soon as trees were cut and the land cleared they were abundant. Sweet fern, a bush bearing abundant aromatic leaves, was found to be a good substitute for tea, and that with sage was for many years the family drink at meals. For variety, crust coffee was used, made of crusts of bread dried, toasted, then steeped in water a few moments and sweetened with the sap of the maple tree, or sugar made from the sap. Not for two years could a cow be kept or milk be obtained. But the dear city-bred mother was not a strong woman and being subject to hard headaches could hardly live without her cup of tea. How to obtain the money to buy a quarter of a pound of tea for mother at \$5.00 per pound, from the nearest store at Tioga Point, ten miles distant, was a problem. The nearest mill where grain could be ground was at Milltown, now Sayre, twelve miles distant. To obtain food for his family, Michael Bird would walk to Milltown and work till he had earned a bag of corn meal, then bring it home upon his shoulders. At one time he bought three bushels of corn at Milltown for nine days' work, and paid 50 cents for grinding it, 50 cents more for getting it home. Assisted by his wife and older children, he often spent his evenings making brooms. They

would take a stick of birch wood, strip off the bark from one end, peel strips one half inch wide or less, and one foot long—fasten with a strong cord of moose wood to form a brush or broom, as it was called, then cut away the long end to a suitable size for a handle. This was the only broom the family had for many years. When he had as many of these brooms as he could carry on his back, he would take them to Tioga Point and exchange them for family food and necessities, bringing the articles home on his back.

In 1804 Phineas Pierce built a saw mill on the Tom Jack Creek about 80 rods north of the present residence of Oren Wilcox. The irons for the mill, with an anvil and bellows he brought with him from Vermont with an ox team. He located on the farm afterward known as the Randall farm. He died in 1808. In 1808 Solomon Morse built a grist mill at Smithfield Centre, both of which were great conveniences to the settlers and gave much joy. Their clothing was of the plainest home manufacture of wool and flax. Shoes and sometimes moccasins made from the skins of wild animals gave warmth in the cold winter. His son Harry, in later years, said to his own children: "I have seen father so poorly off for shoes that they would be tied on with a withe or strip of moose wood bark." At this time sole leather was 50c. a pound, and labor 50c. a day. Fuel was abundant for warmth, and tallow candles furnished light.

After a few years, as the land was cleared to raise a few acres of winter wheat, a cow, sheep, hogs and fowls could be kept and they lived in comparative comfort. When his sons, John and Harry, were old enough to work on the farm, their father Michael would walk to Milton, Pa., sixty miles,

to work as a barber and assistant in a tavern for a few weeks or months, to earn money for family necessities. The chair he then used in his barber shop is now treasured as a relic of olden time in the house of George N. Bird, his great grandson, on the old farm.

Many years after his son Harry gave this testimony: "Mother died when I was about twenty-three years of age. She was not a strong woman, was better adapted to a city life, or to live in civilization. The loneliness of the situation and the privations incident to living in the wilderness were more than she was able to bear. Father was more robust, better able to rough it, and yet he felt keenly the changes in the manner of living and of the surroundings."

Michael Bird and his wife were Christian people. He loved his Bible and reared the family altar in his home. The Congregational Church of Smithfield was organized about the time of his coming into the town. He and his wife became members in 1813, and he was for many years a deacon in the church.

In Smithfield three children were born to them, as follows
Laura, born May 4, 1808.

Sophia and Maria, born April 5, 1812. (Twin daughters.) Sophia died April, 26, 1812. Maria died May 24, 1812.

His wife, Betsy Bird, died April 8, 1823.

November 20, 1823, he married Amy Knapp, of Elmira, N. Y. She was a widow with several children. Her sons preferred to remain in Elmira, but one daughter came into the Bird home. After several years of married life together, her daughter having married, and both being aged and feeble, her sons wished her to spend her remaining days with them in Elmira. It was so arranged, he remaining with his

children in Smithfield. When his sons John and Harry were old enough to carry on the farm, he gave up the cares and responsibilities to them. His last years were very quiet and happy. He divided his time living some months in the home of his daughter Laura, who had married Dr. Daniel Andrus, then at his son John's, on the old farm, where he died June 23, 1851, aged 82 years, five months and five days.

At his death his descendants numbered over sixty. At present writing, as near as can be ascertained, they number 289, of whom 238 are living.

I. FANNY, daughter of Michael Bird, was born in Boston May 7, 1791. Married Solomon Morse in Smithfield December 11, 1806. Died in Troy, Pa., January 31, 1811. Left two children.

1. **Betsey**, born in Smithfield, Pa., August 22, 1807. Died in Troy, Pa., April 15, 1823.

2. **Loren B.**, born in Smithfield, Pa., September 2, 1809. Married Elizabeth Spalding, of Troy, January 21, 1836. Some time during the 50's he removed with his family to Georgia, settling at Midway, near Milledgeville. Afterward, at Savannah, where he lived during the civil war. In 1866 he moved to Brooks County, and in 1874 to Corsicana, Texas, to the home of his son Adolphus, where his wife died November 2, 1884, and where he died August 12, 1895. He had six children.

(1). Fanny Jane, born September 19, 1839. Died when a few years old.

(2). Laura Arlette, born August 23, 1841. Married Joseph Robinson, and lives in Florida. Has several children.

(3). Adolphus Eugene, born August 23, 1843. Married Sallie C. Tabley in Georgia, December 21, 1871, and removed to Corsicana, Texas, where he still resides. Is a farmer and stock raiser. He is a Christian man, a member of the Methodist Church, and for 15 years Superintendent of the Sunday School. His wife died November 27, 1887. He has six children, and five grandchildren.

(4). Charles Solomon, born October 23, 1849. He entered the Confederate army at 14 years of age. After the war closed he studied medicine, graduated, and received his diploma from the Savannah Medical College in March, 1870. In 1871 he moved to Corsicana, Texas. He studied law, and in April, 1876, was appointed Clerk of the Court of Appeals at Galveston, Texas. In December, 1881, was appointed Clerk of the Supreme Court, and remained such until his death, May 13, 1902, at Austin, Texas. He was a member of the Presbyterian Church. A wife and one daughter survive him.

(5). Horace Alonzo, born May 23, 1851. He lived with his parents in Georgia till 1871. He moved to Texas with his brothers. Is married, and lived at Galveston, Texas, where he was Clerk of Court of Appeals ten years. At present is engaged in the lumber business in West Texas. Is a member of the Episcopal Church.

(6). Fanny Jane, born March 3, 1855. Married a Mr. Walker and lives in Corsicana, Texas.

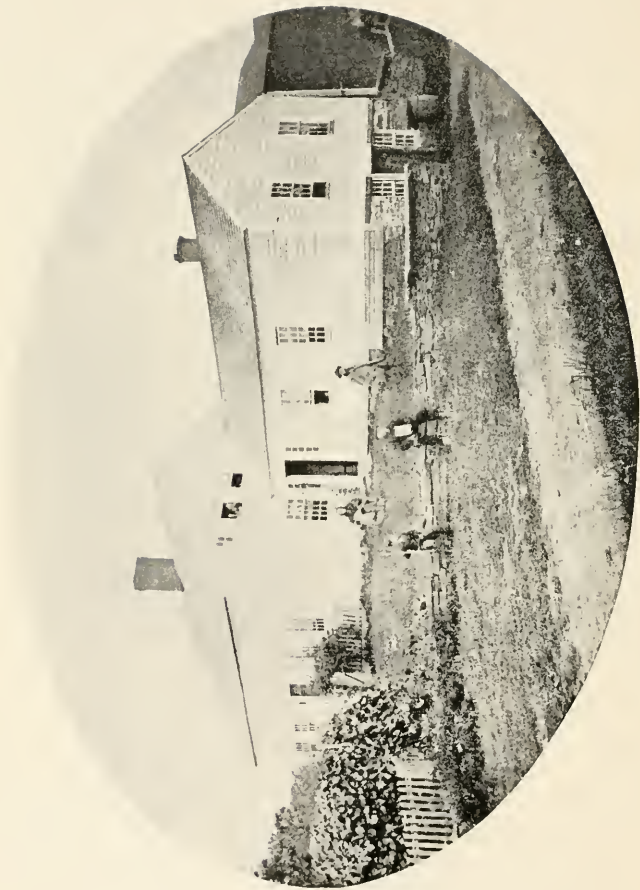
II. JOHN, oldest son of Michael Bird, was born in Boston, Mass., May 11, 1792. He was nearly nine years old,

when his father removed from Rutland, Vermont, to Smithfield, Pennsylvania. In October, 1858, the writer entered his family as the wife of his son Lark, and was a member of his family till his death April 11, 1875. From him and his wife, Mary Sumner Bird, mentioned elsewhere in this history, and whose death occurred three years later, June 15, 1878, she obtained much of the information here given. Many an evening was spent in listening to the recital of the facts of their early life, joys as well as sorrows, and of the early customs of society. The only regret is that those facts were not then recorded.

John, as a young lad, entered into pioneer life with a love for it. He loved to catch the trout from the brook, set the trap for woodchuck or other animals, or bring in the squirrel for the family dinner. Later in his young manhood, with his rifle upon his shoulder, he roamed through the woods for a shot at bear or deer, sometimes losing his way but always returning safely at night. To the writer he said, "When I was a boy my father would put a bag of corn on a horse, seat me on the bag and say, 'John, you take this to Milltown and get it ground. I would go and get home before dark. There being no bridge over the Chemung River at Tioga Point, I must ford the river, get over on a raft, or cross on the ice in winter.'"

His school privileges were few. He walked two and one-half miles to the only school house in the town, near the foot of Mitchell's hill. There being no laid out road open he followed a foot path through the woods frequented by the bear, deer, and panther, returning home every night. For several years this was the only school house in town. The first sermon ever preached in town was preached in





FARM HOUSE ON BIRD FARM, BUILT 1827.

Photograph Taken 1872.

that log school house in 1807. The Lords' Supper was administered, the table used being a plank split and shaped with a broad axe. The legs were inserted through auger holes. The wine used was the unfermented juice of the wild grape, sweetened with maple sugar.

May 12, 1814, he married Mary, widow of Jesse Sumner, mentioned elsewhere in this history, and took her and her little son Jesse into his father's home in the log house, till he could build a frame house on top of the hill. Here he lived with his family till 1827, when he built a still larger frame house on the spot ever after known as the Bird home, and moved his family into it. Michael with his second wife, Amy Knapp, and her daughter moved into the house they vacated, and the old log house was deserted. In 1829 Harry married Eliza Martin, and having a joint interest in the farm, both families for a time lived in the same house. Then a new one was built for Harry's family on the east side of the road. In 1837 John bought out Harry's interest in the farm, and Harry moved to a new home two miles South of Smithfield Center. John sold to his brother-in-law, Ziba Gerould, the house Harry vacated. Gerould moved it and it forms part of the present residence of Clayton Gerould.

John was a strong healthy man,, energetic and hard working. About 1832 he purchased an interest in a saw mill on the corner opposite the present residence of Oren Wilcox. He would leave his home with his hired help and ox teams, be at Sodom, two miles distant, at daylight, to cut logs for the mill, taking with them their dinner of baked pork and beans, brown bread, fried cakes, mince pies and like eatables, returning at dark with loads of logs to the mill. His step son, Jesse Sumner, and his two sons Lark and Orpheus,

growing toward manhood, would care for the stock and attend school during the day.

This continued eight years. During the spring freshets he found it necessary to run the mill day and night for weeks at a time. In 1840 he sold that mill and built one upon his home farm, which was run by him and his sons more than forty years. Water was the motive power in both these mills and the primitive "Sash saw," made the lumber. Other lands adjoining his were taken up, until he owned about five hundred acres. The place had become changed from the wilderness of 1800 to a fertile and productive farm. Orchards gave abundant fruit. A dairy of twenty or more cows, young cattle, sheep and swine gave plenty of employment for all indoors and out. A market was found for lumber by drawing it to the river where it was placed in rafts and floated down to Harrisburg, Baltimore and other places. When the north branch canal was built in the late thirties, extending from Elmira, N. Y., to Harrisburg and southward, it furnished means of transportation for lumber, grain and other farm products and added much to the convenience of the settlers and all of the inhabitants. When the Lehigh Valley R. R. was built the Bird farm furnished many ties for the roadbed. Butter in early years was sold at Athens for six cents per pound, and when they received ten cents a pound for it, they thought it a great price. In later years they found a ready market for it at advancing prices, until in the early sixties during the civil war, they sold the entire summer make at 65 cents per pound.

The war of 1812 inspired patriotism in the people. A military company was formed and well officered, as the names, Col. Wm. E. Barton, Col. David Farnsworth, Major

Phelps and Major Enos Califf, testify. Training days were gala days, as the men and women would all turn out to see the company drilled in the manual of arms. They had their musicians and marched to music in military style. A snare drum used by Major Enos Califf in those parades is highly prized to-day by his son, Justin Califf.

John and Mary Bird never made a profession of religion, but were constant attendants of the Congregational Church. He was for many years chorister and leader of the choir. She said to the writer, "We always went to church when we could. John would take the baby in his arms, I would lead the other children. We would go on foot, following the foot path down through the woods to the "Center," for if we went with our ox team, we must go up the hill to the West, across by Deacon Samuel Woods to Deacon Hale's, then to the Center—four miles, as there was no road opened direct from here to the Center." In after years he said, "that was a happy day of my life when I owned horses and could take my wife and children to church in a lumber wagon."

Customs of society were very different then from now. No fashionable calls, but all-day visits were made. She said, "We loved to visit our friends. We had too much spinning to do to make clothes for our families to neglect our work, so our husbands would take us with our babies and our flax wheels in the morning on the ox sled to our friends; we would spin and visit all day and they would come for us at night."

They were a sociable people, often helping one another by "changing work" When one man's wheat or grass was ready to cut before his neighbor's, all would go with scythe sickle and hand rake, cut and bind and put in shocks, or if hay, draw into the barn; then to the next neighbor's, and

so on. If necessary the good wives would go too, to help about the dinner. No mowing machines, reapers or horse rakes were known in those days. The writer well remembers in the summer of 1859 Jesse Sumner, Lark Bird and hired help rising at three o'clock on a moonlight morning, and with their hand scythes cutting the grass on the East side hill before breakfast "that they might draw it into the barn that afternoon." The first mowing machine upon the place was bought by Lark in 1861. He gave \$110 for it.

The young people delighted in social gatherings. A prevailing custom was apple paring bees. The boys and girls would go to a neighbor's in the evening, the boys taking hand paring machines, the girls knives and large needles. The boys would pare the apples, the girls quarter, core and string them on heavy twine. Then they were hung up on nails driven into the joists overhead in the kitchen. (No plastered walls in those days.) When dried they were packed away for family use or sold to the merchants for the city market. When ten bushels had been pared, and the kitchen cleared of the parings, apple and pumpkin pie and cheese would be served, with sweet cider to drink. An hour's social time followed, and at 10:30 all were homeward bound.

Husking bees were favorite amusements with old and young men as they congregated in the neighbor's barn, lighted with tallow candles in tin lanterns, and husked the corn, often indulging in a strife to see who could husk a bushel the quickest, or make the biggest pile. Don't imagine for a moment they forgot to tell their stories, or sing their songs.

John Bird would load a two horse wagon with grain, butter and cheese, drive sixty miles to Williamsport and ex-

change for money or family necessities. No railroads were known then. The first post office opened in Smithfield was in 1825. The first store in 1838, by Lyman Durfey.

The first church edifice was erected in 1811, by the Congregational Society. Rev. John Bascom was their first preacher, who settled here in 1813.

In 1819 the first Baptist meeting house was built and John Bird said, "So great was the interest and enthusiasm that nearly every man and boy in town was at the raising. The building was 36 by 50 feet, with 22 foot posts; yet the Smithfield boys worked with such zeal that they had the body of the building up and plates on in fifty-six minutes from the time they began work." At that time, and for many years, goods and such necessities as glass and nails were brought by wagon from Catskill on the Hudson River, N. Y., at a cost of \$80.00 per ton. It required twenty days to make the trip, or to go and return. In 1819 it took twenty bushels of wheat to pay for one box of window glass, and four pounds of butter to pay for one pound of nails---butter six cents per pound, nails twenty-five cents a pound. In 1802 nails were 33 1-3 cents per pound.

During these years of John Bird's life, his family had lived and been clothed in comfort, but not in the style of to day. Most of their clothing was homespun of wool and flax and home woven. Mother and sisters would spin and weave the woolen cloth, take it to Milltown (now Sayre), to be colored, fulled and pressed. A woman called a tailoress would come to the home and assist the mother in cutting and making trousers and coats for the boys and dresses for the girls. Mother and the girls knit all the stockings, mittens and comforters they wore. A shoemaker came with bench and tools, sometimes for two weeks, to make the

boots and shoes for all the family, from calf-skin or cow-hide leather, and sides of sole leather bought in Elmira. Who shall say they were not just as happy wearing those home-made garments as the young people of to day, attired in their fashionable clothing?

John Bird was an enthusiast in politics, a strong Whig and admirer of Henry Clay and often said, "It was a great disappointment in my life that Henry Clay never became President." He was never happier than when composing songs to be sung during the campaign that elected William Henry Harrison to the Presidency. With his sons, Orpheus and Harry, he delighted in singing at political meetings in his own and other towns. Afterward he was a strong Republican, a total abstainer from strong drink, and an Anti-Slavery man, who was intensely interested in the outcome of the Civil War. Horace Greely and the New York Tribune were his inspiration as long as he lived.

His friendships were strong—prejudices the same. His hospitality was almost unbounded, his home being the scene of many social gatherings. After the marriage of his stepson, Jesse Sumner, his son Orpheus and the daughters being also married, Lark and John, and Mary the youngest daughter, being the only children left in the house, he gave up the management of the farm and business entirely, to Lark; making proper provision for John and Mary, and a life lease for himself and wife during their lives. His last years were quiet ones. He died April 11, 1875. His wife, Mary Sumner Bird, died June 15, 1878. They had 10 children.

1. **Phebe**, born July 31, 1815, died Sept. 6, 1828.
2. **Luzina**, born December 11, 1817, married Enos Califf April 30, 1837. Enos Califf died November 13, 1898. His wife, Luzina, died December 9, 1901. A faithful wife,

devoted mother, an earnest Christian, she "came to her grave in a full age as a shock of corn cometh in, in his season." They were a Christian family, all being members of the Disciple Church in Smithfield. They had six children.

(1). Cornelia, born September 20, 1838. Her early life was a very active one. After graduating from Dr. Dio Lewis' school of Gymnastics in Boston, she taught several years in our large schools, including Vassar College and Chestnut Hill Seminary in Philadelphia.

When about to graduate from a medical school in Philadelphia, her health failed and she has lived a retired life since.

(2). Ellen, born January 21, 1841, married Amos C. Hale, November 28, 1861, died April 17, 1893, in Denver, Colorado. They had four children, three now living. All live in Colorado.

(3). Verona, born March 22, 1843, married Eli G. Pierce, May 21, 1874. He died January, 1876. They had one child. Verona Pierce married T. H. Wible, in Kansas, October 12, 1881. Present residence, Grand Junction, Colorado. They have no children.

(4). Emmorette, born January 8, 1846, married A. O. Campbell June 9, 1869. For many years he has been in the employ of a coal company in Clearfield Co., Pa., as book-keeper and paymaster. Has been very active in Christian and S. S. work. Present residence Clearfield, Pa. Have two children.

(5). Laura Jane, born May 27, 1849, married LeRoy Vincent January 18, 1870. Died June 14, 1871.

(6). Justin Edwin, only son, born April 13, 1852, married Carrie Mattocks December 30, 1890. They have three children. Upon him and his wife came the responsibility of keeping up the family home and caring for the aged parents till their death, a duty faithfully and lovingly performed.

3. Lark, eldest son of John Bird, was born February 18, 1820. In early life he developed business ability. At twelve years of age, at his own earnest request, his father allowed him to remain out of school that he might spend the winter in the woods, driving a yoke of oxen, drawing logs to a saw mill. Later in life he loved books and wished a better education. He attended several terms of school at the Academy at Athens and taught several terms of winter school with good success. During one of these winter terms two other teachers, Danverse Bourne and Charles B. Riggs, met with him one evening each week at the house of Truman Beach, upon his invitation, to study together. They also organized evening spelling schools, the older members of the schools meeting together once in two weeks, or oftener, first at one school house, then the other. Two scholars were selected to "choose sides," as it was called—one taking position on one side of the room, the other the other side. Each leader would call the name of the best speller, or the one he or she chose, in rotation, till all were chosen and standing in the two lines. The teacher, taking his place in the centre, would pronounce a word to one of the leaders, then to the opposite one, and so down the line. If a word was missed the speller sat down and the opposite side spelled the word. All missing the word sat down and the side that stood the longest won. No prize was given, but enthusiasm created and good spellers the result.



THE AUTHOR IN HER OWN ROOM AT THE FARM.

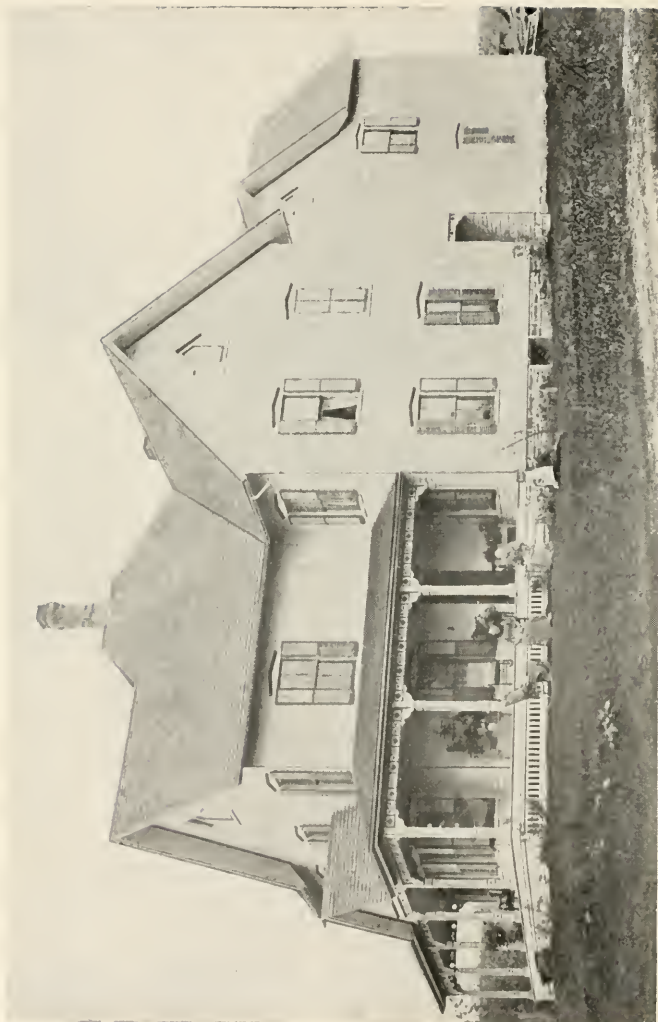
In time the business of the farm came to rest upon him, as his father often said, "Lark is the one to live with me and have this farm. That has always been my plan and I shall have no other." He accepted the trust. October 20, 1858 he married Nancy L. Niles, born in Halifax, Vt., December 19, 1828, and brought her into his father's home to share with him the responsibilities of caring for his aged parents and dependent sister Mary. His youngest brother John still remained sharing in the work and financial interests of the farm. December 27, 1864, John married and brought his wife into the home. March, 1866, Lark bought out John's interest in the farm and John moved to his own home. Lark made many improvements on the place, rebuilding the saw-mill and adding a grist mill in 1867. That proved a success, for the first year he ground over 3000 bushels of corn and buck-wheat for feeding purposes. Both mills ceased doing business years ago. In 1878 he built the large and commodious barn now upon the place, minus the silos. They have since been added by his son George. In 1871 he became a Christian and united with the Congregational Church. Afterwards he transferred his membership to the Baptist Church. In both churches he was known, not as a talker of religion, but a doer. Generous to give money in all departments of church work, he was made Trustee, and financial responsibilities placed upon him.

Having been a strong Republican in politics and always a believer in temperance, after the Civil War, when the National government had placed a tax upon the manufacture and sale of liquor for revenue purposes, he was led to study the question not only from a business, but a moral standpoint. Seeing much of the evil effects of strong drink and

believing the license system to be wrong, in 1885 he became a prohibitionist. For his fidelity to what he believed to be right, he suffered censure and abuse from the liquor men, even to threats of personal violence. He feared not nor swerved from his ideas of duty. He became much interested in the work of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, and did all in his power for its advancement in the county.

September 12, 1883, his oldest son George married Frances O. Rowe, who came into the home to live. Lark at once resigned to him the title and management of the affairs of the farm, after making suitable provision for himself and wife and son Jesse. His interest and activities in all that pertained to the welfare and happiness of the home never ceased while his strength lasted. In 1892 his health failed, and after months of suffering he died February 22, 1894. During the last weeks of his life he spoke often of the great questions of the day in which he had been interested. With great earnestness he said, "Standing as I do now in the light of the eternal world, I see more and more clearly the iniquity of the liquor trafic and the sin of voting for it, and I wish it to be known I die a Prohibitionist." His faith in God's presence and love was very strong. Many were the prayers he offered for his family, the church, and all forms of Christian work. As a result of one of these seasons of devotion in his room, his youngest son Jesse was led to ask forgiveness of his sins, and arose from his knees a Christian man. Inscribed upon his tombstone are his last words, "The best of all—God is with me." They had two children.

(1). George Niles, eldest son of Lark and Nancy Niles Bird, was born June 29, 1860. His taste was for a farm life and the home of his ancestors. On



PRESENT FARM HOUSE ON BIRD FARM.

September 12, 1883, he married Frances O., daughter of Richard Rowe, and brought her into the "Bird home." His father having given to him a deed of the place, in 1888, in compliance with a long-time wish of his father's, as well as his own and his wife's desire, he built the large and commodious house pictured in this history and occupying the same spot of ground as the one built by his grandfather, John Bird, in 1827. His health failing him, and feeling he could no longer do the work required on the place, in 1898 he leased the farm, still retaining ownership and supervision and moved to the village of East Smithfield, where he is now, in 1904, conducting a dry goods and grocery store. He has two children; Richard Lark, born April 23, 1885, Helen Frances, born December 11, 1892. He, with his wife and daughter, are members of the Baptist Church.

(2). Jesse Sumner, second son of Lark Bird, born May 2nd, 1865. He did not choose life on the farm. After spending two years in Susquehanna Collegiate Institute at Towanda, he entered Warner's Business College in Elmira, N. Y. Graduated July 22, 1887. In August he engaged as book-keeper with the firm of Whitehill & Cleveland, manufacturers of overalls and men's clothing, Newburgh, N. Y. September 24, 1890, he married Frances Drew, of Newburgh, and moved to Alliance, Ohio, where he was engaged in the same business until the fall of 1896, he removed to Utica, N. Y., and became manager of The Riverside Manufacturing Co., where he remained until he

became senior partner of the firm of "Bird, Jones & Kenyon," Utica, N. Y., January 1st, 1904. They manufacture Workingmen's Clothing. He has no children. He and his wife are members of the Presbyterian Church.

4. **Orpheus King**, born June 28, 1822. He remained in his father's home till March 17, 1847, when he married Anna, daughter of James Gerould, and moved to the farm adjoining upon the West. In April, 1850, he left New York for California, by way of the Isthmus of Panama, to meet his brother Harry, only to find on his arrival that his brother had died in January preceding. He returned in 1851. His life was given wholly to farming, including the dairy and stock-raising, in which he was successful. His farm adjoining his father's, for many years their interests were almost identical, he and his brother Lark working much of the time together, "changing work". During the winter season Orpheus and his hired men would work in the woods with Lark and his help, cutting and drawing logs to the saw-mill, and the one hundred cords of firewood, Lark's usual supply, his own in addition. The spring-time found Orpheus working in the saw-mill, from which he took lumber necessary for building a large house, large barns, and for other farm uses. The summer time found them haying, harvesting and threshing together, an arrangement profitable for both.

He died April 3, 1883. His wife Amna Bird died Oct. 1, 1891. They had two children,

(1) Arlette, born Nov. 19, 1847. She married Sterling Campbell of Smithfield, November 9, 1871. Died April 14, 1884. They had four children.

(2). Harry Lewis, born May 26, 1854. He married Anna Belle Kendall Sept. 9, 1879, and brought her in-to his father's home, where they remained till after the death of both his parents. March 4, 1893, he removed to Elmira, N. Y. In Sept. 1893, only six months after their removal to Elmira, his daughter Reva was attacked with diphtheria and died Sept. 11, on her eighth birthday. Harry brought her body to Smithfield for burial, was attacked with the same disease the day of his return, and died Sept. 21, 1893. His wife removed to Burlington, Pa., where she now resides with her son Manley G. Bird. His daughter Blanche has been for some years a nurse in a hospital in New Jersey.

5. Harry Lewis, son of John Bird, born May 24, 1825. He chose to be a scholar. He spent some time in a University in Lima, N. Y., and became a successful teacher. He taught four years at Lewellyn, Pennsylvania. While teaching in Lewellyn, the gold mines of California were discovered, and he with others was attacked with the gold fever. In company with a friend, Charles Cockell, he left Lewellyn in February, 1849, for Independence, Mo., where large numbers of men were meeting to arrange for their trip across the plains and almost trackless deserts. April 24, 1849, they left Independence, enroute to the gold fields of California. They took the overland route. There were fifty men in the company, armed with rifles, guns, knives and revolvers, with which to kill the wild animals for food and resist the attacks of the Indians. In wagons drawn by mules they packed flour, corn meal, sugar, coffee, rice and dried fruits, with blankets and cooking utensils, each man except the drivers riding a pony.

The trip proved more disastrous than they expected. Horses and mules died from hunger and thirst, sometimes being thirty-six hours without water and on the sandy plains, with heat so intense they were compelled to travel nights and camp in the daytime. From Fort Laramie to Salt Lake City he walked 510 miles. There the company decided to sell their wagons and pack their provisions on mules. He bought a horse for one hundred dollars. In a letter he said, "When I came to look at my provisions, I found I had only 39 lbs. of flour, 12 lbs. of bacon, no sugar nor coffee, and 867 miles to travel. This I thought a small allowance, but fate reduced it still lower, for the Mormon thieves stole all my bacon. But I had my rifle and I knew it would never let me starve." His horse died and he was compelled to walk 350 miles to reach Sacramento City, Cal., August 5.

The weather being too hot to enter the mines, he commenced cutting hay which was worth \$80 a ton. He paid \$80 for a scythe, \$10 for a pitchfork, \$8 for a rake. Flour was \$10 per cwt., pork \$30 per cwt., sugar 25 cents a pound, rice 10 cents a pound, dried apples \$30 a bushel. He did his own cooking and slept on the ground under a tree at night, where he once lay ten days sick, with no one to care for him but the Indians to bring him water. In November he built a log cabin at the mines, preparatory to digging gold, when he was again taken sick, with no one but strangers around him, and died January 19, 1850.

Ten days before his death he received his first letters from home, by way of San Francisco, two packages containing six letters. He paid postage and the charge of delivery to him was \$5.20. A single copy of a paper from the states cost him \$2.00. Such were the trials of the

early gold seekers in California.

6. **Eliza**, born June 29, 1828, married Alford Brace of Springfield, March 27, 1850. Died January 9, 1894. Alford Brace died Oct. 30, 1896. They had two children.

(1). **Angie**, born May 16, 1853, married Charles McCabe of Troy, March 11, 1874. They have six children.

(2). **George**, born August 16, 1862, married Ida H. Brown, December 25, 1884. She died Feb. 23, 1903. They had four children.

7. **Laura**, born Aug. 13, 1830, married James Bosworth of LeRaysville, Dec. 14, 1858. She was a member of the Congregational Church. Died Jan. 1, 1891. James Bosworth died Jan. 16, 1899. They had two children,

(1). **Martin Bird**, born Dec. 23, 1859, married Ella Frisbie, Sept. 24, 1884. They have one child. He, Martin, is a wholesale produce merchant at Seattle, Wash.

(2). **Nelson**, born Apr. 14, 1861, married Jessie Wells, Feb. 11, 1891. Lives at Oxford, Pa. Has no children.

8. **Jane**, born Nov. 10, 1832, married to John Pease of Williamson, Wayne Co., N. Y., Feb. 18, 1857, and removed there, where she died, Oct. 4, 1900. She was a devoted Christian. With all the members of her family she was a member of the Baptist Church in Williamson. She lived beloved and died lamented. They had two children.

(1). **Charles Bird**, born Dec. 6, 1857, married Jane Belden, Sept. 22, 1886. They have one child. He is a successful farmer at Ontario, N. Y.

(2). **May**, born Jan. 14, 1869. For several years she was a successful school teacher, active in

Church, S. S. and W. C. T. U. work, but since her mother's death she has been her father's devoted housekeeper and companion.

9. **John**, born Apr. 28, 1836. He was not as strong physically as his brothers, yet when not in school, was always assisting in the work of the farm all that his strength would allow. In the fall of 1857, partly for his health and partly for pleasure, he went South and spent the winter in the home of his cousin, Loren Morse, at Midway, Ga. It was a new experience to a Northern young man to be met in the hall by the colored servants with the whispered plea, "Massa please tell me the name of this letter, and what is this word," and to know he could not comply with the request without breaking the law of the state. He also witnessed the brutal whipping of the slaves upon the bare back for minor offences. He reported these in an article written for the *Mental Luminary*," a monthly paper read before the Literary Society of Smithfield. This experience only intensified the strong anti-slavery sentiments taught him by his father and cultivated by reading the "New York Tribune," edited by Horace Greely. When during the Civil War President Lincoln called for Emergency Volunteers to repel Gen. Lee's attack upon Pennsylvania, he with a large company of Smithfield young men enlisted and went to Harrisburg. They were absent only three months, as Gen. Lee was driven from the state.

He married Martha J., daughter of Augustus Phelps, Dec. 27, 1864, and brought her into his father's home, where they remained till April 1866, he sold out his interest in the home farm to his brother Lark and purchased another and removed to it. In 1878, when the Dakota wheat fields

gave promise of great wealth, he, like others, was attacked with the Western fever. Not deeming it advisable to remove his family West without first exploring the country himself, he disposed of his farm, arranged for his family in Smithfield, and spent nearly three years in Dakota and Montana. Finding that he preferred life in the East, he returned to Smithfield and in due time bought a small farm near the village where he now resides. His time has been given mostly to agriculture, yet by the popular vote he has held several township offices, once being assessor for ten consecutive years. In 1899 he united with the Congregational Church where his wife and daughters were members. He has six children.

(1). Alford Carlton, born July 23, 1867, married Addie Hamilton, of Smithfield, Feb. 11, 1892. He was a merchant and post master six years in Burlington, Pa. Now is a merchant at Cooper's Plains, N. Y. Has no children.

(2). Augustus Phelps, born Aug. 17, 1869, married Ida Barnard, at Deer Lodge, Montana, in 1895, and lives at Butte, Montana. Has one son.

(3). Edward Payson, born Nov. 17, 1872, married Carolyn Congdon, of Owego, N. Y., Oct. 5, 1898 and lives at Amityville, Long Island. Has no children. For eight years he has been an attendant and musician in the Long Island Home.

(4). Martha Jane, born Jan. 16, 1876. For twelve years she has been a successful teacher, first in the graded school in Smithfield, the past five years at Athens.

(5). Clarissa Phelps, born June 9, 1877, and

(6). Grace Antoinette, born June 10, 1880, both remaining in the home.

10. **Mary**, youngest child of John and Mary Bird, born Apr. 29, 1840, died June 27, 1897.

III. ELIZA ABIGAIL, born in Rutland, Vermont, Sept. 12, 1797. Married Ziba Gerould in Smithfield, Nov. 25, 1816. She was of a gentle, loving disposition, with a smile for everybody, —her husband the same. They established a true Christian home, where God was worshipped and where friends delighted to visit. Both were members of the Disciple Church, faithful in attendance and in the performance of every duty. They realized the truth of the Proverb, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." Their eight children all became useful members of society, honored and respected by all, and Christians who were faithful in all good works.

Ziba Gerould died Feb. 8, 1871, aged 78 years. After his death she was kindly cared for by her son Clayton and his wife, until her death, March 4, 1886, aged 89 years. They had eight children,

1. **Sophia**, born Nov. 16, 1817. Married Lewis Wood, Apr. 16, 1840, in Smithfield, where their lives were spent. They were members of the Disciple Church, living consistent Christian lives. Their example was followed by all their children, who became members of the same church. She died Dec. 24, 1893. They had seven children, six living, one dying in infancy.

(1). Sarah, born Jan. 29, 1841, married George Bennet, lives in Smithfield. Has three children.

(2). Phebe, born March 6, 1843, married Wayland Andrus—history given elsewhere.

(3). Ennice Geraldine, born Dec. 15, 1845, married Elton M. Durfey in Smithfield, where she died Feb. 7, 1875. Had two children.

(4). Mary Sophia, born Aug. 3, 1851, married John Cleveland of Smithfield. Has three children living.

(5). Ezra Ziba, born Apr. 9, 1853, married Amelia Dubert, lives in Elmira, N. Y. Has no children.

(6). Nellie Kezia, born Apr. 13, 1857, married Charles Pierce and lives in Smithfield. Has three children living.

2. **Louisa**, born July 24, 1820, married Jesse Sumner, Nov. 21, 1841, and record given in Sumner History.

3. **Betsey**, born Aug. 21, 1822, married Jesse Bullock, Oct. 22, 1851, and removed to Canton, Pa., where she died June 22, 1890, leaving one son,

(1). Charles E. Bullock, born Dec. 16, 1858. Is a lawyer at Canton, Pa. Married and has four children.

4. **Lewis Bird**, born March 31, 1824, married Marion Wright Dec. 8, 1847. She died Aug. 18, 1858. They had four children,

(1). Alice M. born Sept. 19, 1848, died May 11, 1904. Never married.

(2). Anna E. born Oct. 15, 1851, unmarried, lives at St. Paul, Minn.

(3). Clara W. born Jan. 7, 1853, married Joel Harris of Smithfield. Has four children.

(4). Elizabeth, born Jan. 15, 1855, married Edgar A. Wood. Lives at Payette, Idaho. Has four children.

Lewis Bird Gerould married Mary Ellen Tracy, Feb. 15, 1860. They had three children,

(1). Charles T. born May 9, 1861, died Oct. 6, 1896. Left two children.

(2). Eddie A. born Nov. 16, 1864, married and lives in Smithfield, a farmer. Has two children.

(3). Marion F. born July 21, 1868. Died Nov. 14, 1891.

Lewis Bird Gerould died June 18, 1888.

5. **Phebe**, born March 14, 1829. Married T. J. Weed, M. D., June 16, 1847. They had two children.

(1). Merritt, born Sept. 30, 1848, died June 24, 1901. Had three children.

(2). Marion E., born Dec. 22, 1850. Married and lives in Chicago. Has one child.

Phebe married Rev. Joel Hendrick, May 12, 1854. He was a pastor of the Baptist Church fifty years, seven years principal of Genesee Valley Seminary at Belfast, Alleghany Co., N. Y. He died April 11, 1905, at Montour Falls, N. Y. They had one child.

(1). J. Welland Hendrick, born Aug. 21, 1858. Married and lives in New York City. Is a teacher in the N. Y. Training School for teachers. Has two children.

6. **Henry M.**, born in East Smithfield, Apr. 26, 1831, married Caroline A. Blackman, Jan. 21, 1855. Lives at West McHenry, Illinois. Has one child,

(1). Maud S., born Oct. 13, 1855. Married and has three children.

7. **Clayton**, born Oct. 28, 1835, married Georgianna De Groff, June 13, 1867. Lives in Smithfield on the father's farm. United with the Disciple Church in early life, has

been a consistent Christian man and helpful to the best interests of the community. A lover of music, a teacher of singing schools, and a leader of the choir of his own church many years, he will long be remembered as one often called upon to lead the singing at funerals, social gatherings and public entertainments. He has seven children,

(1). Eliza Bird, born Feb. 20, 1868, married Peter Knudson and lives in North Dakota. Has one child.

(2). Susan Jane, born June 5, 1869, married Von Nichols, lives in Smithfield. Has five children.

(3). Herman Lowman, born Nov. 21, 1872. Is a butter maker, married Lena Thompson Nov. 23, 1904.

(4). Bessie B., born Feb. 18, 1874, married Truman Gerould, lives at Athens. Has seven children.

(5). Merritt, born March 29, 1876.

(6). Lewis Henry, born Oct. 2, 1880. Is a druggist. Graduated from the Pennsylvania State School of Pharmacy.

(7). Jesse Owen, born Oct. 19, 1887. Living in the home.

8. Jane Eliza, youngest child of Eliza and Ziba Gerould, born Oct. 15, 1841, married Diton Phelps, Dec. 27, 1865. Died in Kansas July 21, 1878. Left no children.

IV. HARRY LEWIS, second son of Michael Bird, was born in Rutland, Vt., Sept. 30, 1800. Being less than one year old when the family moved to Pennsylvania, he had no personal recollection of their early trials. He said,

“At my earliest recollection there was a more comfortable home, some fields in crops, hogs, cattle and fowls, and so comparative comfort.”

He often related to his children his first shooting a deer. “I was six years old when a deer came into the garden which was near. I could not hold up the gun to shoot, so rested it on the shoulder of my sister Eliza, and I got the deer.”

School privileges were few. There was no public money to pay teachers or buy books. All expenses must be paid by the parents. The books and methods of teaching were not to be compared with those of to-day. Webster's Speller, The American Precentor, Daboll's Arithmetic and The English Reader, were about all of the school books then in use. The New Testament also was used as a reading book in the schools. He desired an education and was willing to work for it. After obtaining what he could in the schools and from books within his reach, in his young manhood days, in 1821, he with David Farnsworth, Bulkley Tracey and Ansel Scott, formed a literary society and went once a week for three years to take lessons in Grammar and other studies of Dr. Darius Bullock, who came from Halifax, Vt., and settled in Smithfield as a doctor. They improved their evenings and spare time during the week in studying and recited to the Doctor. He had enjoyed greater advantages in the East, and became a prominent man in the town and county—in social, religious, educational and political affairs. His influence inspired those young men and others during his life to higher aspirations and nobler thinking. He died in Smithfield Nov. 15, 1877. The young man Harry became a school teacher. Where or when he taught his first school is not now known. About 1826 he taught several terms near Syracuse, N. Y., supposed to be

at Salina. He also taught at Horseheads, N. Y. The father, Michael, having given up the control of the business of the farm to his two sons, John and Harry, John being eight years older, always remained at home, having married and with a family of his own. Harry was equally interested, and except when teaching, always at work upon the farm, living in his brother John's family.

Oct. 4, 1829, Harry married Eliza, daughter of James Martin and niece of Dr. Darius Bullock. She was born in Halifax, Vt., Feb. 24, 1811, and removed with her parents to Pennsylvania in 1820. She was a woman of exceptional ability, with natural qualifications for a high place in society. Her father purchased a farm just over the line in Springfield. It was long known as the Martin farm, and is now occupied by Lyman Harkness. Although in Springfield township their associations, social and religious, were in Smithfield. Harry and wife lived in a part of the house built by John in 1827 until a new house was built for Harry on the East side of the road a few rods distant, where he lived till about 1837, when John bought out Harry's interest in the farm. Harry then purchased seventy acres two miles South of Smithfield Centre, since known as the Pierce farm, and remained there until 1844. During that time, with his brother-in-law, Dr. Daniel Andrus, who lived one mile North, between his farm and the village, he erected a saw mill on the Tom Jack Creek on the Andrus place. He also purchased a twenty-five acre tract adjoining, partly covered with timber, which it was intended would supply the mill, and it did, in part. This investment did not prove a success. Lumber was cheap. The hard times of 1845 and '6 came on and to meet the expense of building and running the mill, with the indebtedness of

both places, proved more than he could bear. He sold the Pierce farm in 1844, moved to his twenty-five acre lot and remained two years, when his honesty and upright purpose to pay every dollar of his indebtedness led him to sell all. With only a small amount left, in 1846 he moved his family to his father-in-law's, the Martin home in Springfield, remaining there two years. While living on the Pierce farm, he taught several terms of winter school, boarding at home. One of these was at Smithfield Center, another at Pumpkin hill on the turnpike, one mile west of his home. That was his twentieth term of school teaching. While living in the Martin home he taught one term at the Ira Bullock school house near. He used every opportunity offered to earn money to support his fast increasing family.

In 1848 he moved to a farm on the North road leading to Milan, and in the fall of 1850 he purchased of his brother-in-law, Selden Tracy, a farm in Sweden, Potter County, Pa., about seventy-five miles West, and removed his family, consisting of his wife and ten children, to a new home. Here a brighter future awaited him. In the winter of 1850 and '51 his oldest son, Lucien, taught a school at \$14 per month; Harriet, the oldest daughter, another at \$7; and Ellen, another daughter, one at \$6. As was then the custom all boarded around. He gave all his children the best opportunity he could to get an education, and all save one became teachers to a greater or less extent.

After their removal to Potter County, two children were born to them. Theirs was an ideal home, where God was always honored and obeyed. Every child became a Christian and in time Church and Sunday School workers. The oldest son, Lucien, gives this testimony: "I cannot remember when there was no family worship at our house

every morning, and a blessing asked at table, and we children taken to Church and Sunday School. The Sabbath was carefully observed, and I have no knowledge of any ordinary work being done on Sunday, except on one occasion—we worked a part of the day on the North road to secure some wheat that was sprouting on account of a long wet spell. The records of the Congregational Church in Smithfield will doubtless show that Harry Bird was disciplined. He never told me he was sorry, but said, 'Next time I guess I would not do it.' To the Church he said, 'If I have done wrong I am sorry for it.' This confession, with his well known Christian character, sufficed to quiet the grieved feelings of the deacon, and he was not excluded. The fact was that Sunday was the only day to save that wheat, for the next day it rained."

His wife, Eliza Martin, became a Christian in early life. She gave her highest thought and constant effort to the welfare of her children, who cheerfully bear testimony to her faithful teachings, beautiful example and unfailing love. It was her influence, in great measure, that led them all to the Christian life in early years. She died in Sweden, Feb. 29, 1860.

Several of the children having married and gone to homes of their own, he remained with others and kept up the family home till 1868, when he went to his son Lucien's in Penfield, Pa. Here his love for teaching school again asserted itself. He taught several terms in Elk Co., Pa., and in the early 70's returned to Smithfield for a visit and taught a winter term of district school near Bulkley Tracy's. The writer well remembers his visits that winter in his brother John's family, as he came to stay over Sunday with us. So bright and genial was he in his nature and

conversation that no one would have thought him to be past seventy years of age.

About 1874 he returned to his farm in Sweden, where he remained till his death, March 19, 1878.

We cannot close this record without adding other items of interest. If not gifted in money making, he was in that which is far better, in Christian work. He became a Christian in early life and a member of the Congregational Church in Smithfield. When the first Sunday School was organized in that Church in 1830, he became an active worker as teacher and assistant superintendant till his removal to Potter County, in 1850.

In the early settlement of Bradford County, great ignorance prevailed in regard to the use of alcoholic drinks. They were thought to be an absolute necessity—a panacea for all ills. The man who built a distillery was considered a public benefactor. It furnished a market for grain and cheapened a necessary article to the consumer. It was no offense to make, sell or use it. Deacons in the Church manufactured and sold it, the elders drank it, and church members frequently became intoxicated. Every tavern had its bar, but a saloon was unknown. The county was soon dotted over with distilleries. From a point of a hill in Wyalusing, five distilleries could be counted in full blast at one time. Whiskey was the currency of the country—the standard of value. Things were bought to be paid for in whiskey. Men worked for so much whiskey a day. Mary, wife of John Bird, said to the writer, “When we built this house in 1827, we had a barrel of whiskey standing in the hall, and we thought it no harm to treat our friends to it when they came in to spend the evening with us.” Her son Lark added, “When I was a little boy and our folks

had company in the evening, I always liked to go to the table next morning and eat the sugar from the bottom of the tumblers they had their whiskey punch in."

In the early thirties an interest for total abstinence was awakened in Bradford County. Some of the best men gave it their support. Lecturers traversed every locality, gaining many pledges for total abstinence. It became a subject for discussion in Smithfield.

Six men, Harry L. Bird being one of them, formed a Temperance Society. A total abstinence pledge was written in a book and persons asked to sign it. An elderly man of to-day says, "I remember Harry Bird coming to my father's and getting my father to sign that pledge. At one time they had three hundred names in that book." Lucien, his oldest son, says, "As soon as I could write my name, my father required me to sign a temperance pledge written on a blank leaf of an old bible." John Bird and his family became total abstainers, and that whiskey barrel went out. In later years all members of the Bird family have been known as opponents of the liquor traffic.

This was the beginning of the temperance movement in Smithfield, followed in later years by the Sons of Temperance, the Good Templars, the W. C. T. U. and the Prohibitionists, aided by the co-operation of pastors and churches, as well as other organizations for the law's enforcement.

They had twelve children.

1. **Harriet Louisa**, born in Smithfield, Apr. 8, 1831. She was an exceptionally bright student and became a successful teacher in Bradford County, and later in Potter County Pa., and Wellesville, N. Y. She ever seemed unconscious of possessing great personal beauty and a brilliant intellect, so modest was her manner. Married Brainerd

Bowen of Troy, Pa., Apr. 24, 1853. A Christian in early life, she united with the Presbyterian Church in Troy. Died Dec. 30, 1859. Left no children.

2. **Henry Lucien**, born in Smithfield Apr. 8, 1833. He was a strong vigorous boy, and has led an active life. Improving every opportunity to obtain an education, he became a school teacher in early life. Being the oldest boy, a considerable share of responsibility for the family has fallen to him, especially during the years of poverty that were experienced in his early manhood. In keeping younger members of the family, he has made great personal sacrifices. He learned land surveying as being more remunerative than teaching and for many years was the "Surveyor" in Potter, and to some extent, in adjoining Counties. For the last twenty years he has spent several months each year as surveyor and agent in Tennessee for the large land and mineral holdings of New York and Philadelphia capitalists.

April 7, 1856, he married E. Zelvina Eld, of Maryland. She has truly been a helpmeet in founding an ideal Christian home, full of good works in the Church and community. After his marriage, he and his wife united with the Presbyterian Church at Ulysses, Pa. He has been a Christian man in his own home, training his children in the principles of the Christian religion, has been active in Church and Sunday School work as a teacher or superintendent in Potter, Elk, Cameron and Clearfield Counties. His residence for thirty-four years has been in Penfield, Smithfield Co., Pa., where he is known as surveyor, real estate and insurance agent.

He has had five children.

(1). Albert Allen, born in Brookland, Potter County, Aug. 16, 1857. After graduating from the High School in Penfield, he spent one year at Mansfield Normal School, two years at an Academy in Franklin, N. Y., four years at LaFayette College, Easton, Pa., three years at Union Theological Seminary, N. Y. City. Graduated in 1887, and was ordained and installed as pastor of the Presbyterian Church at Houtzdale, Pa., the same year, where he remained four and one half years. Then was pastor at Wilcox, Pa., for twelve years. Now pastor at the Presbyterian Church at Juniata, Blair Co., Pa. His wife was Mildred V. Taylor, of Edinboro, Pa., married Oct. 16, 1889. They have four children.

(2). Alice Eliza, born in Brookland, Potter Co., Pa., June 22, 1861. Educated in the public schools of Penfield, spent two years at the Edinboro State Normal School, and eighteen months in training and practice in the New York Hospital preparing to be a Foreign Missionary. She went to India in 1888. She married Rev. Henry Forman at Lodiana, India, March 28, 1889. During her seven years of missionary life, she and her husband spent ten months in the home-land. They did much for missions while here, and through her influence two of her young lady friends entered the mission field and are doing good work in India at the present time. She died at Agra, India, Jan. 21, 1896. Left no children.

(3). Kate Ellen (Nellie), born in Brookland, Jan. 6, 1864. She took the highest grade in whatever was taught in the Penfield High School, and

graduated in the State Normal School at Edinboro. Since then she has been her father's assistant in his office at Penfield. Is an active worker in Church and Sunday School, being for many years Corresponding Secretary of the Clearfield County S. S. organization.

(4). May, born at Brookland, May 4, 1866. She had the advantage of a good education and after graduating from the Penfield High School and Edinboro Normal School, became a teacher, and was remarkably successful. For some years she taught in the Edinboro Normal School, Kane High School, and other positions. She gave much attention to music, and after her health broke down and she was forced to abandon teaching school, she became a teacher of music. She united with the Presbyterian Church at the age of nine, and was an active worker until her death, teaching the Men's Bible Class, was organist in the Church, and active in the Christian Endeavor Society. Owing to her failing health she went to Buffalo, N. Y., for an operation, which was performed January 28, 1905. She died in Lexington Heights Hospital, Buffalo, February 2, 1905.

(5). Addie Dent, born in Emporia, Pa., September 26, 1870. Died at Penfield, Pa., August 18, 1871.

3. Lydia Ellen, born in Smithfield, August 23, 1834. Became a Christian in early life. In 1850 she removed with her parents to Potter County, and taught a winter term of school at \$6.00 per month. She was married to Jasper M. Spafford, January 5, 1864. Soon after her marriage physical infirmities confined her mostly to her home, but her Christian character enabled her ever to maintain a cheerful happy manner—

and to make her home a delight and a joy to a wide circle of relatives and acquaintances. She died October 27, 1898. Left no children.

4. **James Weston**, born September 5, 1836. A bright, cheery lad, a happy young man, gaining the love of all who knew him. Became a Christian in early life and maintained a strong Christian character to the end. Was a successful teacher for many years. Rev. Joel Hendrick, Principal of Genesee Valley Seminary at Belfast, N. Y., gives this testimony: "Weston Bird came to my assistance at my solicitation September 1, 1865. I had had two different men in the place he occupied before him, one a graduate of Brown University, the other of Rochester University, but he filled the place better than either of them, and more satisfactorily to the public generally."

In January, 1866, he married Elizabeth Parker, the lady principal of the same school, and removed later to Knoxville, Illinois, where he taught for many years and where his wife died, April 26, 1870. They had two children.

(1). A daughter, dying in infancy.

(2). Harlan M., born August 23, 1868. Married Elizabeth Merchant, June 6, 1901. Is a successful lawyer at Marinette, Wis. Has one child.

Weston's second wife was Sarah Louise Whitney, of Deerfield, Oneida County, N. Y., whom he married December 23, 1872. She died at Knoxville, Ill., January 26, 1877. They had two children.

(3). Florence Ellen (Flossie), born April 13, 1874, died May 14, 1876.

(4). Clara, born July 21, 1875. Married Dr. Wm. Sellars, of Milwaukee, Wis., June 21, 1899. Has three children.

Weston married Evelyn Twitchell, Jan. 8, 1879, who survives him. They had one child.

(5). Born January 6, 1883, died November 19, 1883.

Weston died March 30, 1900.

5. **Harlan Page**, born in Smithfield August 2, 1838. In common with others of the family, his school privileges were few—but the “home atmosphere” ever tended to reading and practical education. At a very early age, he too, like the older brothers and sisters, taught school, but soon took up book-keeping, on account of better pay. He went “West,” and from Wisconsin enlisted as a volunteer, serving four years in the civil war. He gained some distinction in the army—was wounded in the advance rifle pits at Vicksburg—served nearly two years on the staff of Division and Corps Commanders. Of himself he says: “I well earned the First Lieutenant’s Commission given me, and should have received higher rank, had I not been wholly without acquaintance in the State.”

January 19th, 1869, he married Sarah Jane, the daughter of Rev. John Fairchild, at Marinette, Wis. Four children blessed this union.

(1). “Our Birdie,” a beautiful boy, born November 9th, 1869, died in infancy.

(2). Harry Lewis, born October 8, 1870. Is now a lawyer in Chicago. Has a wife and three children.

(3). Laura Edith, born April 2, 1874. Is the wife of Wm. H. Dunham, a prominent business man of Detroit, Michigan.

(4). Clarence Weston, born March 22, 1880. His life is devoted to music. After preparatory study, he was under distinguished teachers in this country for

five years, and is now engaged in his fifth year under the masters of Europe. His profession is Concert Piano and Composer.

Harlan became a Christian in boyhood, and Wisconsin gave him abundant opportunity for Christian work. He has been heard to say, "As Superintendent of various Sunday Schools fully four thousand young people have been influenced by me—for good or evil. I know that some of them have become Christians." He has assisted in the organization of several Presbyterian Churches, and in the erection of at least five Presbyterian Church buildings.

In mercantile pursuits and lumber manufacturing he has gained a competence, and is benevolent in its use. One evidence of this is the establishment of a Public Library at his present home in Wausauke, with a social department attached, for the especial benefit of lumber workmen. He has been made President of the State Library Association of Wisconsin, as well as several auxiliary societies.

As an active Republican he has been led into public life—in Town, County and State affairs—a member of several State Conventions, and the National Convention of 1904. He is now a State Senator, and is often referred to by his colleagues and the press as the "honest Senator."

His contributions to the press on current topics and travels are frequent.

His great sorrow came to him Jan' 28, 1904, in the sudden death of his wife. She was a woman of much refinement and great intellectual ability, ever doing unostentatious work for her Master. The granite monument that marks her resting place publishes "She hath done what she could." Of none other could this be more truthfully said.

6. **Sophronia Eliza**, born April 6, 1841. She inherited the looks and has the firm Christian character of her mother. She married Rodney L. White April 4, 1867, and lives at Roulette, Potter Co., Pa. He died March 22, 1905. Had three children.

(1). Mabel, born July 3, 1869. Married Wm. Cool, Apr. 28, 1891. He has been a successful druggist in Buffalo, N. Y., now lives at Roulette, Pa. Has one child.

(2). Elmer, born Apr. 28, 1871. Married Edith Sullivan, Jan. 20, 1890. Died Oct. 18, 1899, leaving six children.

(3). Harry, born Nov. 27, 1872. Married Marie Cornell, July 3, 1901. He is a farmer, lives at Colesburg, Pa.

7. **Mary Susan**, born Jan. 1, 1843, in Smithfield, Pa. Because of her good works, she has been named the "Dorcas" of the family. She has never married. During the many years of her sister Ellen's invalidism, she was her companion and in charge of her home, and for Mr. Spafford after her sister's death. She is "a mother to everybody who needs her." Is active in Church and Sunday School work. Present home at Colesburg, Potter Co., Pa.

8. **Orpheus Brainard**, born December 11, 1844. He possessed musical ability and began playing the organ in S. S. when a boy. While studying medicine in Philadelphia in 1868, he played the organ for Gov. Pollock's Bible Class. After graduating and receiving his diploma as M. D., he practiced with good success in Duluth, Wis., and Menominee, Mich., where he married Olive A. Chandler, July 12, 1872. He could not endure the cold climate of Northern Wisconsin, and moved to Germantown, Pa., then to Portland, Oregon,

where he had good success in his profession. His wife's health failing, he sought its restoration in Los Angeles, Cal. There she died October 6, 1886. They had two children.

(1). Clarence Eugene, born February 8, 1876, died May 8, 1880.

(2). Daisy, born April 12, 1880, died August 7, 1880.

Although a good physician, his failure to save the life of his wife caused him to abandon his profession and seek a living in other ways. He returned to his favorite field, music and Sunday School work, adding blackboard pictures and talks.

In 1887-8, in Providence, Rhode Island, he carried a flexible blackboard from school to school, addressing a thousand persons each week.

January 1, 1889, he married Sarah Murphy Walker near Vineland, N. J. Of late years he has divided his time between Ocean Grove, where they had a home, and New York City, where he has practiced as an oculist and has been Chief Examiner in the International Correspondence School of Music. He has written the music for fifty gospel hymns and many anthems. His musical compositions possess great excellence in harmony and tender expressions. He has recently published the "Family Music Book," 300 pages, most of the music and many of the words, his own composition. It has successfully passed the ordeal of professional criticism. For the benefit of his wife's failing health, in September, 1904, they removed to Santa Barbara, Cal. They have one child.

(3). Sarah Ellen (Essie), born March 21, 1890. She is a good student and inherits considerable musical ability from her father.

9. **Charles Martin**, born in Springfield, January 10, 1847. He married Jennie E. Meeker, of New York City, in 1868. She died February 28, 1886. They had three children.

(1). Amy Alberta, born in Newark, N. J., December 7, 1872. Died December 14, 1890. She was a devoted Christian, an untiring worker in the Sunday School.

(2). Minnie Ludlow, born in Stevenson, Mich., March 26, 1879. Graduated from the State Normal School at White Water, Wis., June 18, 1893, and is now a successful teacher at Menominee, Mich.

(3). Evelyn, born in Menominee August 6, 1883. Died September 7, 1884.

April 25, 1888, Charles married as his second wife, M. Kate Billings, born at Beaver Dam, Wis., November 15, 1857, at Beloit, Wis., where they now reside. They have three children.

(4). Margery Storrs, born in Menominee, Mich., July 27, 1890.

(5). Stanley, born in Wausaukee, Wis., September 13, 1893, died June 11, 1894.

(6). Carol Martin, born in Baraboo, Wis., December 29, 1897.

Charles was engaged in business with the Prudential Life Insurance Co. He is a Christian man, and active in church and Sunday School work wherever he lives. Had charge of the S. S. at his Church at Beloit, and went three miles into the country to conduct a school at 3 P. M. each Sabbath. In all his work he is ably assisted by his wife, who teaches a Bible class and helps to push the work along.

10. Albert Zachary, born in Springfield March 27, 1849. Taught several terms of school in early life. Married Belle Eunson in Menominee, Mich., September 29, 1885, where he now resides. Is a successful merchant and helpful to the Church of which he is a member. Has two living children.

(1). Edith Ellen, born September 24, 1887, died January 16, 1889.

(2). Florence Maye, born June 5, 1889. She will graduate from the Menominee High School in another year, and is developing marked musical ability.

(3). Elizabeth, born September 25, 1892, died in infancy.

(4). Baby, born January 22, 1895, died in infancy.

(5). George Mills, born February 26, 1898.

11. John Seldon, born in Sweden, Potter County, Pa., May 31, 1851. He married Sarah N. Rosman March 24, 1880. They occupy a part of the farm his father settled in 1851, in Sweden, Potter County. He is an earnest Christian, useful to the religious work of the town, especially in the Sunday School. They have had four children, three now living.

(1). Nellie, born February 25, 1881.

(2). Harry Albert, born July 20, 1883, died February 6, 1892.

(3). Charles Jasper, born July 7, 1885.

(4). John Forman, born June . . , 1893.

12. Kate, youngest child of Harry Lewis Bird, was born in Sweden December 25, 1854. She was a school teacher, a faithful member of the Presbyterian Church. She married James Carnahan, of Mercer Co., Pa., in 1878. Her health failed, they went to California for her benefit in 1882, but she lived only a short time. Died March 8, 1883, at Santa Barbara, Cal. Left no children. "Katie's" brief life was sunshine and happiness to all who knew her, but especially to the older members of the family.

NOTE.—Investigations are now in progress, to learn the earlier history of the Bird family, which is believed to have been in Shropshire, England. The earliest records in this country, places the family in Virginia. The name has been spelled Byrde and Byrd, in earlier times. It is hoped that the results of these searches can be added to these "sketches" hereafter.

V. LAURA, born in Smithfield May 4, 1808, married Dr. Daniel Andrus, January 26, 1826. She was a noble Christian woman, cheerful and happy in disposition, a friend to everybody and loved by all. Her father, Michael Bird, found loving care in her home during the last years of his life. Theirs was a Christian home. When the writer was a child but ten years of age, she first knew her in her home and loved her daughter Fanny with a love that has never grown cold, and when she entered the Bird family in 1858, her love for "Aunt Laura" increased with the years. She and her husband, Dr. Daniel Andrus, were members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, but none of their Church services being near, they were constant attendants, with their family, of the Congregational Church at the Centre, the Dr. being Assistant Superintendent of the Sunday School for many years.

He died July 22, 1859. After his death she lived with her son Wayland in the home. Early in the Spring of 1861 consumption claimed her as its victim. She died August 24, 1861. They had ten children.

1. **Henry Purdy**, born July 6, 1827, died May 19, 1828.

2. **Fanny Orinda**, born April 13, 1829. Was a successful school teacher in early life. Married Milton Bailey December 24, 1856. The most of their married life was spent in Jamestown, N. Y., where both were very active in Christian work. Mr. Bailey assisted in founding the Chautauqua Assembly and publishing the Assembly Herald. She has never missed spending her summers upon the grounds, and was a member of the first graduating class of the Chautauqua Reading Circle. For many years she was Superintendent of the large M. E. S. S. at Jamestown, also active in missionary work, and for many years President of the local Union of the W. C. T. U. Since her husband's death, July 21, 1896, her home has been with her son Milton, in Bradford, Pa.

They had five children, three now living.

(1). Charles Justin, born June 21, 1859. Graduated from the West Point Military Academy in 1880, and has been in the U. S. service since. Has two children.

(2). Benjamin Milton, born April 29, 1861. Lives at Bradford, Pa. Is in the Bradford Hardwood Co. and Bicycle Rim business. Has seven children.

(3). Mary Lodeska, born August 23, 1863, died July 24, 1887.

(4). Emma Bird, born October 24, 1866, died November 27, 1866.

(5). William Shindell, born January 7, 1869. Lives at Jamestown, N. Y. Is manager of the "Chautauqua Correspondence School of Nursing." Has one child.

3. Mary Louise, born July 4, 1831. Married Seldon Tracy of Smithfield, September 16, 1858. Died Oct. 30, 1859.

4. Hiram Pearsall, born April 27, 1834, died Oct. 18, 1834.

5. Justin Plumb, born September 16, 1835, died February 8, 1857.

6. Wayland Bruce, born April 15, 1838. Lives at East Smithfield. December 24, 1861, he married Phebe Wood, born March 6, 1843. They have had six children, five now living, as follows:

(1). Wellner B. Andrus, born March 8, 1863. Married and lives in Dakota. Was nine years County Superintendent of Schools. Now a teacher and stock raiser. Has one child.

(2). Laura May, born October 16, 1865, married G. W. Tracy and lives in Dakota. Has five children.

(3). Fred Leland, born May 1, 1872. Lives in Dakota.

(4). Roy Sumner, born March 4, 1882. Graduated at Warner's Business College in Elmira, N. Y.

(5). Fanny Louisa, born November 27, 1884. Is living in the home.

7. **Julian Lewellyn**, born January 19, 1842. Married Blanche Henry, December 23, 1869. Lives at Bradford, Pa. Is an oil inspector. Has two children.

(1). James Louman, born 1873.

(2). Blanche Broder, born 1885.

His wife died in 1895.

8. **Louman Bosworth**, born September 19, 1845, died August 29, 1872.

9. **Elland Laura**, born September 25, 1848, died January 24, 1852.

10. **Weiner Lee**, born December 13, 1853, died May 2, 1857.

VI. and VII. SOPHIA and MARIA, twins, youngest children of Michael and Betsey Bird, born April 5, 1812.

Sophia died April 26, 1812.

Maria died May 24, 1812.

HISTORY OF THE SUMNER FAMILY.

JESSE SUMNER was born in Halifax, Vermont, September 2, 1789. In 1811 or '12 he sought a home in the then "far West." In Smithfield, Bradford County, Pennsylvania, he bought a tract of wild land, now owned by George Dubert. He cut and cleared four acres, sowed it to winter wheat, and in the fall of 1812 returned to Halifax to claim as his bride Mary Miller Harkness, who was born in Coleraine, Massachusetts, January 7, 1791. She had lived four years in the family of Samuel Niles of Halifax, where their acquaintance had ripened into love.

They were married December 17, 1812, and very soon started for their new home in Pennsylvania. Their conveyance was a sled drawn by two yoke of oxen. On this sled were packed a feather bed with bedding, their clothing mostly of home manufacture of wool and linen home spun and woven, a little furniture, a small stand now in the home on the Bird farm, a looking glass, some table ware, table cloths and towels all like the sheets and pillow cases, home spun and woven from home raised flax, for cotton goods, if known at all, were too high priced for the use of the pioneers. A rocking chair for the bride to sit on during the ride was securely fastened to the sled, and in the straw under her chair was secreted a home-made linen handkerchief, plaided blue and white, containing two hundred dollars in silver and gold. This was thought the

safest place to carry it, for, as she said, "Who would ever think of searching in that straw for money, even in the night time while we were sleeping in the tavern beds."

As was then customary, they took a stock of provisions, both cooked and uncooked, and when night came would stop at a tavern, get the oxen cared for, their load of goods under cover if possible, eat of their own food, adding to it tavern supplies if necessary, and after a good night's rest, go forward in happy anticipation of reaching their Western home and a life of joy together.

How long it took to make the trip is not known. They stopped for the night at a home South of Tioga Point, now called Athens, on a farm since known as the Watkins farm, expecting to reach Smithfield the next day. In the morning Mr. Sumner was sick. A doctor was called who said "typhus fever" as it was then called. In ten days Mrs. Sumner took the dead body of her husband to Smithfield for burial. Instead of a happy bride, she was a broken hearted widow. Smithfield friends were kind, especially the family of Deacon Asa Hackett, whom she had known in Vermont. They made her welcome in their home. She immediately wrote to her husband's father in Halifax, of his son's death. He received the letter early in the day, and said: "To-morrow morning I shall start for Pennsylvania to bring Mary home."

He did start early the next morning on horseback for Smithfield. He reached the home of Deacon Samuel Wood one day about noon. He said, "Where is my son Jesse buried?" Mr. Wood replied, "You are very tired. Rest to-day; to-morrow I will take you to his grave." "No, I must go to-day. I cannot sleep till I see my son's grave." They went that afternoon. The next morning he did not rise. Going to his

room they found him very sick, and in ten days buried him beside his son Jesse.

The young widow, twice bereft, felt there was nothing for her to do but to bravely bear her lot as best she could. Circumstances would not permit her returning to Vermont. There were two yoke of oxen to be sold, a crop of winter wheat to be harvested, the lot of wild land to be looked after, and she must remain in Smithfield. Mr. Hackett's family gave her a home, where October 11, 1813, a son was born,

JESSE THE SECOND.

Mrs. Sumner was a brave and energetic woman. She felt that she could and ought to support herself. A small log school house stood on the West side of the road leading from the Bird home to the main road and not far from the corner. The inhabitants of the district offered her the use of that house to live in with her little child if she would teach their children the usual school months. She gladly accepted their offer, receiving such remuneration as they chose to give. When not teaching the children, she would spin wool or flax, or do sewing for the neighbors, always doing whatsoever her hand found to do. She said to the writer, "The boys and young men were all very kind to me, keeping wood cut and do many things for me, John Bird with the rest, I thought nothing of it, till one Sunday evening he came to my home and said, 'Would you not like to go up to Mr. Morse's for prayer meeting?' I replied, 'I cannot go on baby's account.' 'O, but I will carry the baby for you if you will go.' So I got ready, he took the baby in his arms, and while we were going he asked me to be his wife. I was thunderstruck. My first thought was, how can I give up the name of Sumner? I did not answer him that night, but you may believe I didn't take

any interest in one word said in that prayer meeting."

The final answer was yes, and they were married May 12, 1814. John Bird took his wife and son Jesse into his father's home until another house could be built for them. Over Jesse he exercised the same love and care afterward given to his own sons. Between Jesse and the Bird brothers and sisters true love existed. They often said, "Jesse is just as dear to us as we are to each other." He remained in the Bird home until he was twenty-eight years of age, receiving after he was twenty-one pay by the month, like any other hired man. The money he earned in this way added to what was left of the sale of his father's property, which had been carefully saved for him, enabled him to buy a farm of one hundred and sixty acres one mile from Smithfield Centre, where he spent the remainder of his life.

November 21, 1841, he married Louisa, daughter of Ziba and Eliza Bird Gerould, and they immediately commenced housekeeping in the log house then upon the place. Their early married life, like others of those days, was one of hard work, self-denial and economy. But persisting in these, he acquired sufficient money to enable him to make improvements on his farm, adding much to its value. He built a nice house, large barns, and surrounded himself with all the comforts of life, and left a competence to his children. In 1850 he became a Christian and united with the Congregational Church. He remained faithful to his Church vows, giving liberally of his money, and was very active in the building of the new house of worship in 1861, being a member of the building committee. Some misunderstanding, or difference of opinion between him and some leading member of the Church resulted in his withdrawal from church

life and work. A few months before his death, the writer had a long talk with him of his religious feelings and hopes. He expressed himself as having never given up his hope in Christ, regretted that things had occurred as they had, and expressed a confidence in Christ as his Saviour and Comforter to the end. After forty years of very happy married life, his wife died April 23, 1881. They had three children.

1. **Orpheus Bird Sumner**, born April 8, 1846, married Helen Brigham, October 27, 1877, and remained in the home. They faithfully cared for the father after the mother's death till December 16, 1892, when he passed away. Orpheus still lives in the old home. His wife Helen died November 15, 1895. He has four children.

(1). Louise, born August 6, 1878, married Edwin Drake, October 28, 1903, and lives in Athens. Has one child.

(2). Jesse, born August 29, 1882.

(3). Bert, born July 24, 1886.

(4). Fred, born February 21, 1892. All living in the home.

2. **Elbertine L.**, born September 21, 1842, married Lewis Alba Bosworth, of LeRaysville, November 27, 1866. Their children are:

(1). Jesse L., born September 10, 1871, married Jennie Mahaffey, at Thomson, Illinois, December 18, 1901. Is a butter maker in Colon, Michigan, and has one child.

(2). Harry Alba, born December 9, 1872, married Amelia A. Johnson of LeRaysville. Is a merchant living in LeRaysville. Has one child.

(3). Guy, born October 13, 1874, married Mattie Kingsley of Smithfield, June 8, 1898. Is a druggist. Lives at Nichols, N. Y. Has two children.

(4). Hugh, born December 31, 1879, unmarried, lives with his parents.

(5). Ray, born July 27, 1881. Died February 7, 1885.

(6). Arthur, born November 17, 1884, unmarried lives with his parents.

3. **Betsey Gerould Sumner**, born September 6, 1848, married Lewellyn Blackman of LeRaysville, January 6, 1870. He was a druggist. Present residence, Lester-shire, N. Y.

(1). They had one son, Augustus, born February 10, 1872. After graduating from a school of Pharmacy in Philadelphia, he became a druggist in New York City. Died November 10, 1896.



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